



## **Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 18:00**

### **To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:**

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Fuchshuber, Haque, Joyce, Meredith, Miah, Soan, and Tarasiewicz

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

**You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held at the Committee Room, Northampton Town Council Offices, Guildhall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 18.00.**

Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of public will need to contact the Town Clerk in advance if they wish to speak on any agenda item, except for item 3.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Carter'.

**Stuart Carter**  
**Town Clerk**  
**29<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Guildhall**  
**Northampton**  
**NN1 1DE**

### **A G E N D A**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3RD JULY 2023**  
*Attached*  
*Pages 2-7*
- 4. BUDGET UPDATE**  
*Financial Report attached*  
*Page 9*
- 5. NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE**  
*Chair's verbal report*

- 6. APPLICATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT SCHEME – VOLUNTARY IMPACT NORTHAMPTON**  
*Democratic Services Officer report attached*  
*Page 11-16*
  
- 7. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE**  
*Events and Project Officer's report attached*  
*Page 17-18*
  
- 8. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTIVITY UPDATE**  
*Chair's Verbal report*
  
- 9. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**  
*Town Clerk's verbal report*
  
- 10. COLLEGE STREET MEWS MURAL MAINTENANCE**  
*Assistant Town Clerk's verbal report*
  
- 11. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION FOR EMPORIUM WAY NORTHAMPTON**  
*Democratic Services Officer's report attached*  
*Page 20*
  
- 12. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2023 AT 6PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillors Stevens (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Fuchshuber, Joyce, Meredith, Soan and Tarasiewicz

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr Nalder and Ms Lee

### **13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted by Mr S Carter (Town Clerk)

### **14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted

### **15. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – THE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Chair explained the applicants from CGS1 were in attendance and may wish to address the Environmental Services Committee. Mr Nalder and Ms Lee introduced themselves to the Committee as representatives of South Court Environmental Ltd.

### **16. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:** The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

### **17. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – BUDGET UPDATE**

The Chair explained that a budget update would be a reoccurring item to ensure members were up-to-date and could ask any question in relation to this Committee's budget.

In response to a question about the surplus within the Bloom Budget, the Assistant Town Clerk explained we are currently awaiting an invoice for the watering costs from Idverde and part of the funds are maintained to order plants and planters for Bloom 2024.

In response to another question, the Town Clerk explained that Bloom had changed throughout the years under the former Northampton Borough Council as business' were previously charged

£30 for Bloom baskets for the summer and the Northampton BID were not involved with the planning or funding of Bloom.

In response to a question, the Chair explained the expenditure under 4400 Repairs and Maintenance was for water bills incurred on the sites within our wards. A Councillor added that allotments were owned by the Town Council however, they were managed and maintained by Idverde in exchange for fees from the allotment holders. The Chair explained allotments require a strategy as it requires more oversight and engagement.

**NOTED**

## **18. DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY ON 12/04/21**

The Chair explained that the Town Council declared a Climate Emergency on 12th April 2021 just after our inception. He continued, the Climate Change Forum hosted every month with three Councillors and six community volunteers who have been active in developing ideas and some of those projects have been implemented with the assistance of the Event and Project Officers.

The Chair stated that he believed more of an impact could be made regarding the Climate Emergency due to lack of Officer resources and volunteers of the Climate Change Forum may not be feasible currently and proposed a debate on the recruitment of a Climate Change Officer or two who job-share to focus on and assist with the Town Council's work on Climate Change.

The Chair stated he sees the aims of the role to assist in raising awareness of Climate Change and supporting the Event and Project Officers on events and engaging and educating the public. A Councillor raised that £40,000 was a large amount of residents' Council Tax precept especially, with the high salary budget expenditure currently and the amount does not reflect pension and National Insurance contributions.

A Councillor posed whether the Environmental Services Committee reviews and works on this up-to budget setting in November 2023 and we work on creating an Environmental Services Officer rather than a Climate Change Officer, who could liaise and work with the Climate Change Forum and allotments. A Councillor raised the role could be part-time and also would be pertinent to the strategy on allotments especially if it was decided to move toward self-management they would require a point of contact.

A Councillor stated they believed the role of a Climate Change Officer was the responsibility of West Northamptonshire Council to undertake as the Unitary Authority.

A Councillor echoed that an Environmental Services Officer would be required with the trajectory of Climate Change.

A Councillor stated they would be hesitant of funding a potential Climate Change Officer role be funded via the Climate Change Emergency Reserve as it projects the wrong message and requires adequate costing, business plan and budget it not from reserves.

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that any roles to be recruited would need to undergo benchmarking for the market value in line with other Town and Parish Council roles. The

Democratic Services Officer stated that if the Committee wished to discuss and move this further the next meeting was scheduled for 4th September 2023 and the following meeting on 13th November 2023 would fall within budget principles and setting.

**AGREED:** That a discuss of a Climate Change Officer or Environmental Services Officer be discussed at a future Environmental Services Committee meeting as a formal agenda item.

**ACTION:** To consult with other Town or Parish Councils on whether a Climate Change Officer could work on behalf on two or more organisations.

## **19. BLOOM REPORT**

The Assistant Town Clerk explained all the floral planters have been installed around the Town. A Councillor stated there seems to be a reduction in the number of planters within Castle Ward specifically on Barack Road and the Racecourse. The Assistant Town Clerk suggested the Councillor gets in touch directly to provide the feedback for next year.

A Councillor provided thanks to the Assistant Town Clerk and Mrs Hanam-Jones (Events and Project Officer) on their work on Northampton in Bloom and how beautiful the installations look this year.

A Councillor raised that on Landcross Drive has two large planters. The Ward Councillor explained in response that no planters could be installed on lamp posts therefore it was decided two large planters would be better suited.

**NOTED**

## **20. ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS - NB SOUTH COURT ENVIRONMENTAL**

The Chair explained that Climate Change Grant Scheme applications would now be reviewed by the Grants Sub-Committee in line with other Grant Schemes the Town Council Offers. He continued that moving forward Climate Change Grant Schemes applications would be reviewed by Grants Sub-Committee

In response to a question posed by a Councillor, it was explained by Mr Nalder that South Court Environmental Ltd had no affiliations with any political groups. Mr Nalder explained they have sites near Billing Road East, Wellingborough Road, Kings Heath, towards Moulton and two small enclosed gardens. In response to a question posed, Mr Nalder explained all of South Court Environmental Ltd sites were mostly open to the public. In response to a question posed by a Councillor, Mr Nalder explained that the Billing Road East site was named Wilson Road and has been owned by South Court Environmental Ltd and open to the public for use.

In response to another question, Mr Nalder explained South Court Environmental Ltd hoped to expand their reach therefore, it was difficult to predict the amount would be spent on each site. In response to a question, Mr Nalder explained they plan to plant enough hedgerows that there would be a higher ratio of hedgerows and this being a variety of hedgerows to entice a variety of wildlife.

A Councillor suggested that South Court Environmental consult an Environmental Officer of West Northamptonshire Council who has specialist knowledge of trees and their benefit to wildlife.

A Councillor stated he had visited the Wellingborough Road site and thanked South Court Environmental Ltd for their work.

**RESOLVED:** That application CCGS1 be **approved** to the sum of £5,000.

## **21. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM REPORT**

The Chair circulated a written report regarding the Climate Change Forum that requested funding for a series of Climate Change Forum stalls.

The Chair explained there has not been not much Officer support in the previous months due to those who had assisted previously now have a higher workload. He encouraged that if any Councillors or volunteers were aware of any people or organisations who would like to participate in the Climate Change Forum to make them aware of the initiatives on offer.

The Chair explained the Climate Change Forum wished to host some stalls within the Grovesnor Centre and other sites and provided some rough estimations. In response to a question, the Chair explained he wished to place banners on the railings outside of schools to encourage waiting parents to turn off their vehicles. Ms Lee stated it may be more cost efficient to send the image to be placed on the banner via school mailing lists.

In response to a question, the Chair explained the quotation provided by Tangerine Red was very reasonable compared to an alternative supplier however, benchmarking could be done again and the publications would be circulated at the stalls hosted at Weston Favell Shopping Centre and the Grovesnor Centre that feature a QR Code to our website.

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that the Town Council host stalls at many of the events that we support and suggested whether the Climate Change Forum could assist in manning the stall to boost engagement.

A Councillor raised that the Weston Favell Centre has a higher footfall compared to the Grovesnor Centre and posed that the installation be placed there once disassemble and placed there especially, as it would be the shopping centre's 50<sup>th</sup> year.

**RESOLVED:** The Climate Change be authorised a budget of £2,000 to host Climate Change Awareness Stalls.

## **22. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL PARKS VISITORS SURVEY**

[Survey to be share for information only](#)

**23. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

It was raised the allotment strategy and Climate Change/Environmental Services Officer be discussed at the next meeting.

**MEETING CONCLUDED 19:37**

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#### 4. BUDGET UPDATE

The below report was generated as of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

DSO's Notes:

- The Finance Officer advised no invoices or payments for August 2023 had been posted yet and therefore not included in this report.
- The next Environmental Services Committee meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 will be budget setting.

29/08/2023

Northampton Town Council

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 29/08/2023

Month No: 5

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<b>Environmental Services</b>							
<b>210 Open Spaces &amp; Environment</b>							
1537 Northampton in Bloom Income	0	0	23,021	23,021			0.0%
Open Spaces & Environment :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,021</u>	<u>23,021</u>			<u>0.0%</u>
4140 Advertising and Marketing	0	0	0	0	69	(69)	0.0%
4536 Northampton In Bloom	0	56,369	60,000	3,631	763	2,869	95.2%
4560 Environmental Projects	0	4,626	25,000	20,374	80	20,294	18.8%
4561 Environmental Grants	0	5,000	25,000	20,000		20,000	20.0%
Open Spaces & Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>65,995</u>	<u>110,000</u>	<u>44,005</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>43,093</u>	<u>60.8%</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>(65,995)</u>	<u>(86,979)</u>	<u>(20,984)</u>			
<b>230 Allotments</b>							
4400 Repairs and Maintenance	350	4,434	30,000	25,566		25,566	14.8%
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>350</u>	<u>4,434</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>25,566</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,566</u>	<u>14.8%</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>(4,434)</u>	<u>(30,000)</u>	<u>(25,566)</u>			
Environmental Services :- Income	0	0	23,021	23,021			0.0%
Expenditure	350	70,430	140,000	69,570	912	68,659	51.0%
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>(70,430)</u>					
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	23,021	23,021			0.0%
Expenditure	350	70,430	140,000	69,570	912	68,659	51.0%
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>(70,430)</u>	<u>(116,979)</u>	<u>(46,549)</u>			
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(350)</u>	<u>(70,430)</u>					

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## 6. APPLICATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT SCHEME – VOLUNTARY IMPACT NORTHAMPTON (CCGS2)

### DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT – 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Environmental Services Committee background of Voluntary Impact's Climate Change Grant Application and an overview of the discussion at the Grant Sub-Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Environmental Service Committee review the application in accordance to the Climate Change Grant Scheme's qualifying criteria and decide to whether application CCGS2 be approved or declined.

### BACKGROUND

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire submitted a Climate Change Grant Scheme (CCGS) application on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and requested £5,000 from Northampton Town Council to replace the lighting across the 3 floors of their office with lower energy consumption light fittings and fit motion sensors in less high traffic areas. Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire would contribute £646.95 of their own funds towards the project, with a total project cost of £5646.95.

The lighting would be installed at their office located at 15 Giles Street, Northampton that currently has a large number of light fittings that use 4 fluorescent tubes.

The main achievements of this project are:

- The lighting upgrade will yield an annual CO2 saving of 2.18 tonnes per annum, or 17.4 tonnes over 8 years. The CO2 savings will be a permanent effect.
- General public benefit due to the reduction in electricity consumption
- Other users of electricity in the area of the building as the load on the grid will be reduced
- Reduction in waste from fluorescent tubes which are difficult to recycle and use more raw materials to produce
- Staff and the organisation will benefit from increased lighting and lower organisational running costs.

### OVERVIEW OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION

The Democratic Services Officer circulated a CEMA Lighting report that was submitted with the application.

A Councillor raised that Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire complete great work and the reduction in energy and cost would benefit them and the Town greatly. In response to a question, the Democratic Services Officer explained that within the CCGS Policy document it does suggest

under item 5.4 applications could be submitted to replace existing lighting with LEDs. A Councillor stated from their recollection, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire rent their premises from West Northamptonshire Council and posed that confirmation of their remaining lease be sought to ensure value for money. A Councillor raised that the annual savings predicted for the project, it would pay for itself in 3.5 years. The Democratic Services Officer contacted the applicant to confirm the length of their lease and it was confirmed that Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire had 99-year lease of the building.

After reviewing the application, the Grants Sub-Committee **recommended**, that application CCGS2 be approved in principal to the sum of £5,000 with the Environmental Services review and adoption.

#### **ELIGIBILITY – AS ASSESSED BY THE CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

Applicant: Voluntary Impact Northampton / Assessors: Clare Robertson-Marriot, Andrew Stevens

This application meets 4 of the 6 main eligibility Criteria in Para 2.2 of the Guidelines – that is:

- a. Contribute to reducing carbon emissions (*through lower electricity energy use lighting than currently, and less replacement bulbs needed as life of new bulbs longer than current neon tubing*);
- b. Sustainable Energy: Reduce the consumption of energy (*through as in a. above*)

*AND, this application also meets 1 of the 6 secondary eligibility Considerations in Para 2.3 of the Guidelines – that is:*

- g. Increasing awareness & education on climate change, and support behaviour change towards cleaner, greener ways of living (*eg if the applicant agreed to the NTC/Climate Change Forum using their example in initiating this change of energy use in their premises as an illustration for other local organisations*)

Other Aspects. This application does provide an opportunity for NTC and the CCF to support a local charity who are involved at various levels of voluntary activity, from providing direct services to local residents (*through their Volunteer Car Scheme, Door-to-Door bus service, and their Happy @ Home befriending service*) to providing set up support to other small local charities, and to involvement with the NHS and Social care services in service planning and development. This broad involvement could lead the way to more Climate Change mitigation by VI helping to promote such projects through their routine work (eg them seeking further grant support (from other sources than NTC/CCF – maybe NCF, national lottery) to, say, move to an e-bus for their Door-to-Door scheme, or the promotion of ‘hot weather resilience’ information to clients who are part of their befriending service.

WNC own the property VI are based in, and in response to a question from CCF Chair, have written “We have checked the lease and we do not need to ask permission of the landlord to replace the lighting. I can send a copy of the lease across if it is needed.”

Assessors’ Conclusion. IN FAVOUR of supporting this application. As well as the match with the Grants Scheme’s criteria, I think NTC, as a Council without the substantial resources of a Unitary Authority, needs to support, and hopefully then work with Northampton organisations who are well known, and with a track record of involvement that could facilitate the reach of CCF climate mitigation and adaptation information to a wider population. As such, a grant to such an organisation could function as a promising investment in an environmentally aware partner and ally that will help NTC/CCF’s public relations programme.

One issue to consider is whether the full £5000 should be awarded. For example, the installation of low energy lighting will be an asset for the building, which may then reflect on the landlord’s ‘asset value’ from this building? And, VI will have a cost reduction benefit in terms of lower energy bills. However, VI themselves are a charity, and if they stay in the premises for a good number of years to come, the benefits will accrue to them, not the landlord. One final point is that in WNC’s Net Zero by 2030 plan, if they have not included changes to be made in buildings they own but let to tenants, maybe NTC/CCF supporting this application will prompt WNC to include all properties they own

## **APPLICATION FORM**

Organisation Type :

Registered Charity

Name of Your Organisation :

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

Position in Organisation: :

Development Manager

What are the aims and objectives of your organisation? :

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire's aim is to support community action for the benefit of individuals, and contribute to more sustainable communities. Our objectives are to: provide infrastructure support to voluntary sector organisations in Northampton to enable them to make a

full contribution to society; promote community action and enable individuals to benefit from volunteering.

In addition to this, we also have projects that support isolated, vulnerable elderly and disabled people. We have a Volunteer Car Scheme, which involves volunteer car drivers in their own vehicles, who transport people to medical and wellbeing appointments, and the Door-to-Door bus service which takes people shopping, to community centres and other social activities. We also run the Happy @ Home befriending service, which provides volunteer befrienders and social groups and events for people suffering from loneliness and isolation.

Please provide details of your organisation's membership :

Our members are representatives of VCSE organisations, with 114 voting member based both within the Town of Northampton and across the county. Members cover a cross-section of the population varying from Home-start organisations working with young families, to AGE UK working with older people across the county, we have organisations working in the area of mental health, and working with the BAME community.

Members of our projects are generally older and disabled people who live within Northampton and the surrounding area.

How is Your Organisation Managed? :

We have a Board of Trustees which steers, oversees and scrutinises the work that we deliver. We also have a CEO and Development Manager, who between them manage the staff team and the projects that we run and work that we do.

Total Project Cost :

5646.95

Contributions From Other Sources :

646.95

Total requested from Northampton Town Council :

5000

Please details any contributions from the other sources :

We intend to use £646.95 of our own funds to complete the amount needed for this project.

The committee will see that the quote mentions the Super-Deduction Capital Allowance. VIN has sought advice from its current accountants as to whether it could apply for that Capital allowance and received advice that it is not eligible for this allowance.

Please detail any non-financial 'in kind' support you have for your project :

VIN has sought advice from its accountants as to whether it could apply for the Super-Deduction Capital allowance and received advice that it is not eligible for this allowance. This advice was given without charge from our accountants.

Does this project involve collaboration with other organisations? :

This project does not involve collaboration with other organisations, however we do have two other VCSE organisations as tenants within our building who will benefit. Our meeting and training rooms are available for rent by our members and other VCSE organisations, so they will have use of the benefits of this work too.

Please explain your project :

Our organisation is based at 15 St Giles Street, in the centre of Northampton. It has three floors and a basement, all of which are lit by very poor energy efficient lighting that has high carbon dioxide emissions.

The building currently has a large number of light fittings, all using 4 fluorescent tubes. These have a shorter useful life than the proposed new light fittings so the project will result in significantly less waste electricity. These light fittings will be replaced with lower energy consumption light fittings.

This will result in a reduction in waste as we will no longer be using fluorescent tubes which are hard to recycle and have a shorter life time, and there will be a reduction in pre-consumption use of raw materials as well.

In addition, currently there are switches which control larger parts of the building than are permanently needed during the day, so the project plan is to fit sensors in these areas so that they will only be lit when in use, thus reducing electricity consumption and reducing CO2 emissions.

The upgrade will be carried out by the company employed to do the work, and managed by our Finance Officer.

Please set out what outcomes you believe this project will achieve :

The lighting upgrade will yield an annual CO2 saving of 2.18 tonnes per annum, or 17.4 tonnes over 8 years. The CO2 savings will be a permanent effect.

Other outcomes:

- general public benefit due to the reduction in electricity consumption
- other users of electricity in the area of the building as the load on the grid will be reduced

- reduction in waste from fluorescent tubes which are difficult to recycle and use more raw materials to produce

- staff and the organisation will benefit from increased lighting and lower organisational running costs.

How do you intend to measure the impact of this project? :

The main impact will be the reduction in CO2 emissions, which we can measure using the known output of the new lighting compared to the old (details in the quotes but verifiable elsewhere).

We will monitor our electricity usage over the year compared to previous years, as the reduction in energy consumption and therefore expenditure will be a major impact.

We will also measure the impact of improved lighting on the health and wellbeing of staff through feedback from them after a set period of working in the new environment.

When do you intend for this project to start? :

As soon as is practically possible.

Item Description 1 :

Luminaire costs

Cost :

2888.25

Item Description 2 :

Sensor costs

Cost :

235.40

Item Description 3 :

Emergency costs

Cost :

537.30

Item Description 4 :

Installation costs (total cost £1,986, we will contribute £646.95 of our own funds = £1339.05)

Cost :

1339.05



## 7. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT BY LOUISE HANNAM-JONES, EVENTS AND PROJECTS OFFICER

**Purpose of report:** To update the committee on future aspirations of the Northampton in Bloom project

**Recommended:** That subject to any comments, the committee note the report. Officers will work with Northampton in Bloom Working party, keeping them informed as the project progresses.

### Summer 2023 Bloom

The flowers around the town centre and wards will be on display until end of September/ beginning of October. Some 3 tier planters have suffered this summer with the top planter plants due to the heavy rain and also pigeons outside All Saints' Church. We have addressed with contractors and they advised topping up the concentration of feed in the watering for the remainder of the summer. Also – perhaps necessary to re position the All Saints' planters next year if there are still as many pigeons.

### Wellness Walks, Abington Park:

The Wellness Walks- a trail of wellbeing poetry quotes written by James McInerny has been installed in Abington Park and has had good feedback. Please do pop to the park to see it for the remainder of the summer. You can download a map on our website:

<https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/wellnesswalks>



### IYN- It's your Neighbourhood Awards

There were two entrants for IYN this year within NTC boundaries: the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation (IHWO) and the Friends of Eastfield Park. They have been judged by East Midlands in Bloom judges and results will be announced in Autumn at an awards ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour (Date TBC). This is three groups less than last year so with the addition of the Community Engagement Officer at NTC, we hope to increase the number of entrants again next year. Louise has visited both groups and publicised photos of the activities undertaken on the Northampton in Bloom Facebook page.

### **The future of Bloom**

The Working party are currently working on a plan to meet the East Midlands in Bloom awards criteria – with the view to be ready for judging in 2025, when the town will have had all renovation work completed. See link for further information about the judging criteria:

<https://emib.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/EMiB-Competition-Guidelines.pdf>

Currently, we are only meeting the brief for A- Horticulture in the criteria, but the two other sections – B Environment and C Community need work. For the Environment section, the initial suggestions are to include:

- Climate Change Forum- specifically Greening the Town
- The Swift project (St Giles Church)
- All Saints Memorial Gardens- to plant up sustainably
- Abington Park – include the wild meadow/flowered areas
- Bradlaugh Fields- – include the wild meadow/flowered areas
- No Mow May
- Allotments

This is to be worked up further in ongoing working group meetings (the next is 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 ). Any further suggestions from ESC are welcome.

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## 11. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) CONSULTATION FOR EMPORIUM WAY NORTHAMPTON

### DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER'S' REPORT – 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Environmental Services Committee background of the PSPO for Emporium Way, Northampton.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) The Environmental Services Committee note this report
- b) Determine whether they want to provide comment on this consultation and how they wish to do so



#### BACKGROUND

West Northamptonshire Council is considering whether to create a new PSPO to temporarily close off a pedestrian route in Northampton Town Centre in order to help control and curb anti-social behaviour.

A PSPO allows Councils to impose restrictions on the use of specific areas to tackle persistent, unreasonable nuisances and anti-social behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for the local community.

Emporium Way is a West Northamptonshire Council walkway that connects the north of the Market Square to Greyfriars, Lady Lane and the Mayorhold Carpark. The walkway has become a place used as a place to conduct anti-social behaviour and criminal activities during the day and night. Despite wardens and police regularly patrolling the area however, it is impossible to constantly monitor.



#### PROPOSAL

The proposal looks to close Emporium Way, this will look to help control anti-social behaviour by preventing pedestrians or wheeled access through the walkway and underpass. It is proposed to use the Crime and Policing Act (2014) to close the route 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the exception of required access for fire exits and waste collection if required.

This would be in place whilst the redevelopment work takes place on the Market Square and then West Northamptonshire Council alongside partners decide on how to improve this route.



For more information about the consultation and the map of the proposed closure please [click here](#).